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Grab and Go crafts available

The Children's Room is offering free Grab & Go Kits through our curbside pickup service! An activity kit about all things Superheroes is now available, as well as several Build Your Own Stuffed Animal craft kits! We'll be offering more throughout the summer and fall, so keep an eye out.

The kits are free and are first come first serve. To claim a kit or to see what we have available, please email our children's librarian Charlie at cpope@holyokelibrary.org or call the Children's Room at 413-420-8105.

Coalition seeks for state to stop COVID outbreak

HOLYOKE – A needs assessment conducted by members of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition recommends the state take immediate actions to prevent another outbreak of the COVID-19 disease at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

COALITION, 9



Grants are available for helping families impacted by opioid use and abuse.

Submitted photo

Neal touts \$1.89 million to HCC for health program

HOLYOKE – Congressman Richard Neal visited Holyoke Community College Friday, Aug. 7, to announce the awarding of four-year, \$1.89 million federal grant aimed at helping families impacted by opioid use.

PROGRAM, 9

Morse will not drop out of race

UMass to investigate
conduct

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The mayor of Holyoke is refusing to renounce his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives this week after controversial accusations of misconduct while working as a professor at the University of Massachusetts surfaced late last week.

Alex Morse, who has served as mayor for the last eight years, is trying to unseat longtime U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts.

Morse, also a Democrat, is set to challenge Neal in the Democratic primary currently set for Sept. 1.

With just a few weeks left before that primary, the Daily Collegian, a publication at UMass, published a letter from the College Democrats of Massachusetts and its chapters at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Amherst College.



Mayor Alex Morse is being accused of having inappropriate sexual relationships with students while an adjunct professor at UMass. File photo

The letter alleges Morse engaged in sexual relationships with students at the school. It further states he abused his power as an adjunct faculty member and someone of heavily involved in politics to engage in sexual relationships for his gain.

After three days of allega-

tions reaching the mainstream media due to his involvement in the Congressional race. He is set to debate Neal in the near future.

With no Republicans involved in the race, the Sept. 1 election will effectively decide the race barring some type of strong write-in campaign.

The First Congressional District in Massachusetts represents the overwhelming majority of Western Massachusetts cities and towns in all four counties, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire.

See MORSE page 9



The Holyoke Public Schools are planning to start the year fully remote and will not go with a hybrid model. Submitted photo

Matos letter details return-to-school plan

Dear HPS Families and Community Members:

Thank you for your engagement this summer as we work together to plan for a successful SY20-21. I appreciate your feedback via surveys, Facebook Live Sessions, public comments, and emails regarding our return-to-school plan. As I have stated in pre-

vious communications, I am committed to making sure all Holyoke students and staff feel safe and valued.

Therefore, I want to provide you with an update on my decision. For SY20-21, Holyoke Public Schools will start the school year remote-

See PLAN, page 8

Mayor facing backlash from city councilors

Two councilors called
on Morse to resign

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – While Mayor Alex Morse is looking at the “big stage” as he seeks to unseat longtime U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts, amid a sexual misconduct scandal, the effects locally are starting to come out.

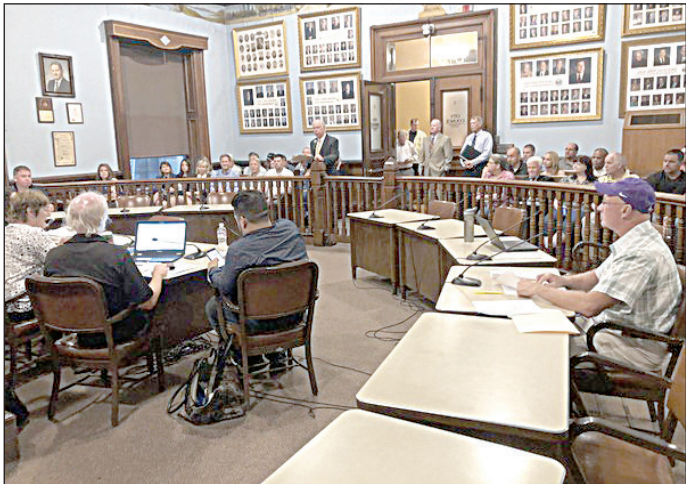
Two Holyoke City

Councilors have come out publicly to request Morse resign as mayor of the city, while another council believes Morse should take a leave of absence.

Morse is currently in the middle of a four-year term as mayor of the city. He was elected at the age of 22 and has been re-elected three times, most recently for the first four-year term in the city's history.

He then declared a run

See MAYOR, page 9



The Holyoke City Council meets in chambers. Members of the council are calling for Mayor Alex Morse to resign amid sexual misconduct allegations. File photo

Neal tours HMC during Health Center Week

HOLYOKE, MA - Congressman Richard E. Neal, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means visited Holyoke Health Center on Tuesday during National Health Center Week. Holyoke Health Center CEO Jay Breines was on hand to give Congressman Neal a tour of the campus, including their drive-thru coronavirus testing site, just one of the implementations the Health Center was able to make thanks to almost \$2.3 million in federal resources to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

“Community health centers are an indispensable and critical part of our health system,” said Congressman Neal. “As we continue to see the economic devastation from the pandemic, we cannot ignore the importance of health centers in the lives of so many who live in underserved communities and are underserved, uninsured, or marginalized in other ways. I worked

with colleagues to ensure the CARES and Heroes Acts prioritized funding to support health centers, but we also need a long-term funding solution to ensure adequate resources to meet the needs of communities across the United States. We must continue to tout and protect the role of health centers across the nation, like this great one here in Holyoke.”

“Today’s visit by Congressman Neal is a great opportunity to demonstrate how The Holyoke Health Center has been able to use federal resources to quickly respond to needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Breines. “His leadership in crafting programs like the CARES ACT recognized that community health centers are vital to meeting the needs of our communities. Our Drive-Thru COVID Testing Program is just one example of what we have been able to put into place in service to our patients. Congressman Neal has



Holyoke Medical Center recently received a visit from Congressman Richard Neal. Submitted photo

recognized how health care workers have responded to the pandemic and today’s visit will offer additional insights that will

help move additional resources to the front lines and to community health centers in particular.”

Local students receive scholarships

HOLYOKE – Olivia A. Geitz, a 2020 graduate of South Hadley High School, has been awarded a \$3,000 Certificate of Award from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, an affiliate with Westfield Bank. Geitz is one of 11 highly deserving scholarship recipients from 12 local high schools that were invited to participate in the Foundation’s 14th annual scholarship program. Since inception, the Foundation has dispersed over 100 academic scholarships totaling in excess of \$300,000.

Geitz was selected due her exceptional academic achievements and her ability to balance her studies with a variety of school and community activities while working part-time. Geitz’s impressive curriculum consisted entirely of Advanced Placement and Honors courses. She graduated in the top ten of her class with a 4.22 GPA. She will attend Cornell University and plans to pursue a career in biomedical engineering.

Geitz was an active member of the South Hadley High School student body and served various terms on the School Council, Math Team, Drama Club, the SH*Improv Theater Troupe, and the Positivity Committee. Geitz was also



Olivia Geitz



Bailey Digris

a four-year member of the South Hadley High School Girls Varsity Swim Team.

In her community, Geitz spent four years volunteering in the South Hadley Chapter of Best Buddies, where she served as its Treasurer and then President, affording her the opportunity to attend the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Indiana. Her passion for helping others drove her to become involved in Pediatric Cancer Awareness from an early age that began with her fundraising efforts for the We Love Riley Fan Club. Geitz also volunteered at the annual Bag the Community food drive. For the past two years, Geitz was employed as a lifeguard at the Holyoke YMCA and was actively involved in the South Hadley Swim Club.

Bailey Digris, a 2020 graduate of Holyoke High School, has been awarded a \$3,000 Certificate of Award from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, an affiliate with Westfield Bank. Digris is one of 11 highly deserving scholarship recipients from 12 local high schools that were invited to participate in the Foundation’s 14th annual scholarship program. Since inception, the Foundation has dispersed over

100 academic scholarships totaling in excess of \$300,000.

Digris was selected due her exceptional academic achievements and her ability to balance her academics with a variety of athletic and community activities. Digris graduated with a 4.05 GPA upon successfully completing a rigorous course of honors, advanced placement and dual enrollment classes. She plans to attend Holyoke Community College in pursuit of a master’s degree in Business Administration.

Digris was an active member of the Holyoke High School student body where she served as President of the Business Club and was a member of the National Honor Society, through which she helped plan many fundraisers and community service events as well as business-related school field trips. Digris was also a member of the Holyoke High School crew team and participated in unified track.

Digris devoted herself to numerous community activities. Her passion and commitment to keep her community clean and safe was evidenced by her four-year volunteer commitment to the Holyoke Ward 4 Cleanup Project. She has also been very involved with the veterans of Holyoke through eight years of volunteer work at the city’s Memorial Day and Flag Day events. In addition to her school and community commitments, Digris enjoyed working part-time at the Children’s Museum at Holyoke.

Virtual walk to help NAMI

AGAWAM – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts will be holding its 20th Annual Walkathon Virtual Celebration, ‘A Journey of Hope and Recovery on Aug. 23, starting at 11 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can Build Better Lives.

Folks may help NAMI-WM’s mission by participating in this Virtual Walk or by sponsoring the event. Anyone who would like to submit a brief video saying how NAMI-WM has helped them or a loved one or how they maintain good mental health during these difficult times, these would be most appreciated. Videos should be two minutes or less, and the deadline is Aug.7. All entries should be emailed to information@namiwm.org.

For further information, contact NAMI’s office at 413-786-9139 or visit www.namiwm.org/events for entry and sponsorship forms.

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RMV expanding drop-off registration and title services

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) will on Monday, August 10th, expand drop-off registration and title services to 7 total Service Center locations, including Boston / Haymarket, Braintree, Chicopee, Haverhill, Milford, Taunton and Wilmington. These Registration Drop Off Centers are dedicated to performing a number of vehicle-based registration and title services for both commercial and individual customer transactions on a drop-off only basis. Customers choosing this option will be able to drop-off appropriate paperwork for processing within a few business days.

The RMV piloted this new service channel option at the Braintree Service Center the week of August 3rd, and during the first four days processed 402 drop-off registration transactions with an average turnaround time of two days. After observing results the initial week, the RMV advises customers to monitor and check their emails – including spam or junk folders – after they have dropped off their paperwork as some transactions may be completed earlier, and cannot be picked up until payment is completed online.

“The RMV is pleased with the overwhelming response and cooperation from the public to this pilot and is excited to expand and offer this new drop-off service for certain vehicle-based transactions to additional locations beginning next week,” said RMV Registrar Jamey Tesler. “Customers in need of one of these vehicle-based transactions can drop-off their paperwork and return to pick it up in just a few business days. This alternative service channel will help meet increased RMV service demands during a time when services are limited by appointment-only due to the need to enforce social-distancing to keep our customers and employees safe.”

Registration renewals will still be conducted exclusively online or by mail for individual customers. Customers will continue to be able to make appointments for certain vehicle-based registration and title services up to 14 days in advance.

How Does ‘Drop-Off’ Registration and Title Service Work?

Customers in need of one of the services listed below should compile and complete all appropriate paperwork and any supporting documents. This includes contacting your insurance agent/company to obtain a completed Registration and Title Application (RTA). Customers must drop-off the required paperwork within 30 days of obtaining their RTA. Drop-offs with an incomplete or inaccurate RTA will not be processed.

Customers will be able to visit any Registration Drop Off Center between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to drop-off their transaction paperwork. An RMV door advocate will review the customer’s paperwork to determine if it’s correctly completed and ask customers to fill out a coversheet with their name, email and phone number. Customers will not be allowed to wait and should expect a phone call or email from the Service Center within a few days when their transaction is completed.

Transactions will be processed in the order received. Customers will receive a phone call or email when their transaction is completed and be instructed to pay for their transaction online. Customers are encouraged to check and monitor their emails – including spam or junk folders -- after they have dropped off their paperwork, as some transactions may be completed earlier and cannot be picked up until payment is completed online.

Customers will need to complete their payment online prior to returning to

the Service Center to pick up their plates and/or registration.

Customers who are dropping-off or picking-up their paperwork will be served in the order of arrival and should anticipate a wait time for the intake and pick-up process, but will not have to wait for their transaction to be completed that same day.

How Long is the ‘Drop-Off’ Turnaround Time?

While the RMV asks for its customers’ patience during the initial days of this service offering, anticipated turnaround time for completion of drop-off transactions is within four business days.

Customers are encouraged to monitor and check their emails – including spam or junk folders – after they have dropped off their paperwork as some transactions may be completed earlier, and cannot be picked up until payment is completed online.

However, customers may expect additional wait times if their transaction paperwork is incomplete, inaccurate or requires additional review. Drop-offs with an incomplete or inaccurate RTA (see above) will not be processed.

What If I Don’t Want to ‘Drop-Off’ My Transaction or Wait Up to 4 Business Days?

Customers may alternatively continue to book an appointment-only reservation for these services. Appointments are available online up to 14 days in advance.

What Type of Transactions Can I ‘Drop-Off’ for Service?

The following types of transactions can be dropped off by both commercial and individual customers, including casual sales, campers, trailers and motorcycles. Registration renewals will still be conducted exclusively online or by mail

for individual customers.

- Register and title a vehicle
- Transfer plate to a new vehicle
- Reinstate a registration
- Apply for a registration only
- Transfer a plate between two vehicles
- Register previously titled vehicle
- Transfer vehicle to surviving spouse
- Registration amendments
- Plate cancellations

Where is My Nearest Registration ‘Drop-Off’ Center and When Can I Visit?

Drop-off hours will be between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The following locations will all be performing drop-off registration and title services effective Monday, August 10th.

- Boston / Haymarket Service Center
- Braintree Service Center
- Chicopee Service Center
- Haverhill Service Center
- Milford Service Center
- Taunton Service Center
- Wilmington Service Center

Why is the RMV Offering Certain ‘Drop-Off’ Services?

The RMV is introducing this service channel alternative in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage ‘social-distancing’ in its Service Centers and prioritize other essential in-person needs by appointment-only. All RMV customers are encouraged to visit www.Mass.Gov/RMV to complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail, or by phone.

For additional information on RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.

Virtual 5K to benefit Soldier On

REGION – Due to the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Dynamics Soldier On Golf Tournament Committee has decided to postpone the 10th Annual Golf Tournament until the summer of 2021. This was a difficult decision, but necessary as we greatly value our loyal sponsors, players, volunteers, and community as a whole. It was a risk too great to take.

Starting on Monday, September 28 through Sunday, October 4, General Dynamics Mission Systems – Pittsfield, is hosting the Soldier On Virtual 5K! You are invited to register for the 5K Run/Walk/Jog, the September Cash Calendar, the Soldier On Jacket OR YETI Tumbler, or to bundle all three! To bundle make sure to click here.

Last year’s golf tournament raised over \$59,000 for Soldier On, which was only possible with your participation and generosity! The funds raised will go toward ending veteran homelessness in the Berkshires and beyond. Soldier On significantly contributes to the improvement of the community and all proceeds from the event will directly benefit veterans who have served our country.

5K participants will have the option to register for one of the categories

below and will have the whole week to run/walk/jog the event on their own time.

Participants will be required to register and use the JustMove app to compete, as this tool will track your time, distance, and placement.

Men’s/Women’s Race: First place winners will be ranked based on best times as recorded by the JustMove app and will receive a prize.

Teams Race: Teams must consist of 4 participants. Times identified in the JustMove app will be combined after the final race day is complete and the First Place Team will receive a prize.

Just For Fun Race: This option is for those not looking to compete, but rather participate in the 5K for fun. A prize for this race type will be given out at random.

Please visit the SO5K Facebook Page and help us share this wonderful event for an even greater cause. We will be providing additional event information on our Facebook Page such as the Dine to Donate program, swag pictures, jacket sizes, fun routes in the Berkshires, and more. We hope you tag us in your race pictures.

Questions? Contact us. For registration, call Nick Bourdon (413) 464-3063.

2020 Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series begins July 29 over Zoom

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College president Christina Royal and Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement, will kick off a reimagined monthly Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series on Wed., July 29.

The 2020 Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series, postponed from spring due to COVID-19, will now take place virtually over Zoom on the last Wednesdays of July, August, September and October from 12 to 1 p.m.

The series is sponsored by HCC and Training and Workforce Options, a collaboration between Holyoke and Springfield Technical community colleges.

“Women leaders and up-and-comers will be joined by panels of like-minded women each month for small group discussions and open dialogue,” said Tracye Whitfield, TWO’s director of Business Development. “Participants will have the opportunity to form a supportive network of women leaders, discuss topics of interest and enjoy a brown bag lunch, virtually.”

Each lunch-time event will feature two presenters leading discussions on

different topics:

July 29: “Leading Through Change” -Christina Royal (president, Holyoke Community College) and Amanda Sbriscia (vice president of Institutional Advancement, Holyoke Community College; executive director, HCC Foundation).

Aug. 26: “Empowering Women in the Workplace” - Denise Jordan (executive director, Springfield Housing Authority) and Julie Quink (managing partner, Burkhart, Pizzanelli PC).

Sept. 30: “Comfortable in Your Own Skin, Finding Your Voice” - Tanisha Arena (executive director, Arise for Social Justice) and Pam Victor (owner, Happy Valley Comedy Theater).

Oct. 28: “Women Leaders in Non-Traditional Businesses” - Colleen Loveless (president and CEO, Revitalize Community Development Corporation) and Nicole Palange (vice president, V&F Auto).

The July 29 session is free. The remaining three sessions are \$20 each, or \$50 for the full series. Registration is required. Space for each luncheon is limited to 25. To register, please go to: hcc.edu/womens-leadership

Library to host ‘comic-con’ online

HOLYOKE – Take your fandom to the next level at ACTIVATE, a brand new, fully virtual fan convention, completely free for Massachusetts teens between the ages of 12-20. Celebrate what you love while also interacting with a diverse group of artists, writers, voice actors, and other industry professionals. Learn how you can use your passions for anime, comics, writing, gaming and more to boost social justice. Learn

more and register at activatelibcon.org.

Brought to you by your local public libraries: Brockton Public Library, Lawrence Public Library, Peabody Institute Library in Peabody, Springfield City Library, Turner Free Library in Randolph, Ventress Memorial Library in Marshfield, Waltham Public Library, Worcester Public Library, and LITT, the Library Initiative for Teens and Tweens.



Guest Column

Questions on peppers and cucumbers

Grandma visited today and questioned why her pickling cucumbers were “funny looking.” She was hoping for blocky, straight fruit, but what she has are tapered to a point. Some even curl. Looks don’t matter much to her but unfortunately they don’t taste very good either. They are quite bitter. How can this be remedied?

This is an easy fix. Curling, bitter fruit are an indication that cucumber plants are crying out for more water, and it is no wonder with the drought we are having. They are shallow rooted and depend on a steady amount of moisture to grow evenly. Your goal should be an inch of rain per week. Sometimes summer rains are deceiving; while you think that passing shower saturated the earth, chances are it didn’t.

Just for the fun of it, set up a homemade rain gauge in the garden. This way you can see for yourself just how much rain we are actually getting. Simply position an empty tuna fish can marked in quarter-inch increments among your plants. You can even leave it there while your sprinkler is at work or while you hand water as normal. After each “rainfall” record your results, and at the end of the week, make up the difference to achieve the desired one inch. I don’t expect you to be this fussy all the time, but this little experiment will give you a sense of how little or much rain you and Mother Nature are actually providing to your plants. While we have little say in what falls from the sky, we can make adjustments to our sprinkler timers. Another way to help out your cukes would be to provide their shallow roots with a little mulch. The mulch will regulate moisture and prevent weed competition. Accomplish this well after your plants are up and growing, and of course, don’t pile it up too close to the stem.

This question came from Robin, who gardens in Hardwick: “My pepper plants are laden with fruit but slow to turn color. When will they be ready to harvest? I’d like to preserve them somehow for use over the winter. What would you suggest?”

Usually you will have to wait at least two to three weeks after green peppers have reached full size before they will ripen completely. Now you know why colored peppers command a higher price than their green counterparts, they are taking up space on the plant for a longer period and because of that inhibiting, to some degree anyway, new fruits from forming. In our part of the country it is smart to search out pepper varieties that reach

See GARDEN page 5



Letter to the Editor

Please pass ‘death with dignity’

Dear Editor:

I was thankful to see several Springfield-area physicians share their support for “Death with Dignity” legislation on recent TV news programs. This is a legal option for dying well which we all should have. In other states who have this law, the option has not been abused.

I am 80 and disabled with multiple sclerosis. My disability is only one of many factors I will consider in a choice to die with dignity. I share the perspective of many other human beings who do not want to live beyond “our time.” In other words, I do not want to live beyond the days that hold my interest, that give me the opportunity to be useful, and allow me to be comfortably connected to my friends. I do not want to live in suffering.

I will say that I totally respect those who vehemently object to this legislation, and would not want to even consider availing themselves of this option. While I have no current plans to take advantage of it at the moment or in the future, I want the option available to me. Who knows what my situation will be in the future.

Please ask the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing to pass H. 4782. Call Co-Chair Rep. Daniel Cullinane at 617-722-2430.

Martha Johnson

Poetry Corner

Noble New England

By Thomas J. Kennedy

*Free will rampant and righteous
Before the Movers and Doer –
New England highest hills are
More magical than Other’s mountains
And meadows.*

*New Englanders are not cold
As they give time –
So the strangers obediently matures –
New England is part of the picture
And not the frame.
New England not only the most beautiful
In the world,
But the gentle spirit refreshing the calm.
New England most four season beautiful
In the World.
But the gentle spirit refreshing the calm.*



the **Sun** HOLYOKE

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A Quote

OF NOTE

“Don’t let yesterday take up too much of today.”

Will Rogers

Letters to the Editor Policy

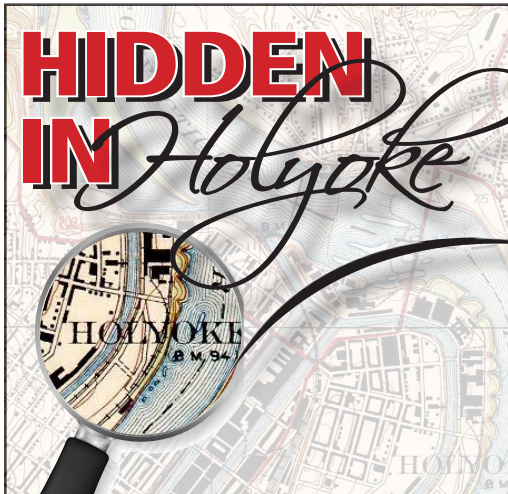
Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

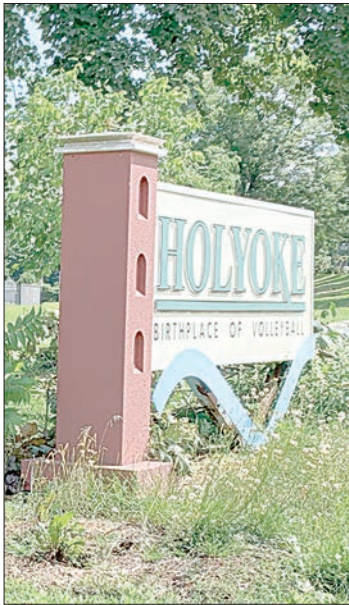
Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



Each week, The Holyoke Sun will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to “Hidden in Holyoke” via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday’s edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact The Holyoke Sun at 413-283-8398.



Last week’s “Hidden in Holyoke” was the Holyoke sign at the corner of Northampton and Beech streets.

Guest Column

In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

Yellow warbler

I saw either a female or immature yellow warbler in the forsythia bush this Sunday. The female or immature is a duller yellow than the male. It either has faint breast streaking or none at all. The immature females lack breast streaks and are buff olive with less yellow. The male is yellow with reddish streaking on its breast. The yellow warbler is five inches long. They eat caterpillars, cankerworms, gypsy moths, beetles, aphids and other insects. The female lays four to six white eggs with blotches in a nest of milkweed, stem fibers, grasses, down and spider’s silk. The yellow warblers song is a “sweet sweet sweet I’m so sweet” with the last note accented. It also has a musical “chip” call.



Baltimore orioles

I received an email from a North Brookfield resident. She said, “I have had Baltimore orioles at my jelly feeder up until this week. I have put out seven quarts of grape jelly so far. But I have not seen an oriole this week can you explain where they could be?”

I also have not seen Baltimore orioles coming for orange halves that I put out. The catbird, a red-bellied woodpecker and a red squirrel also ate the oranges. Baltimore orioles start their migration south as early as July.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds

Although Baltimore orioles migrate early, the ruby-throated hummingbirds do not start their migration until September. I fill my two nectar feeders every other day. I enjoy watching the hummingbirds chase each other around the feeders and spread their tail feathers while they hover. Whenever, I look at one of the nectar feeders, I do not have to wait long before one or more hummingbirds appear.



Great blue heron

I was at Lake Winisquam this past Saturday with my daughter, Lynn and granddaughter, Cora. Cora and I were swimming when a great blue heron flew over the water and landed on the dock of elderly neighbors. It was a beautiful day to be in the water, but they do not get outside very much so the dock is a quiet place even on a summer Saturday. I wondered if they saw it land and watched it as Cora and I did.



Other birds at the lake

I saw one loon, three cormorants, some mallards and seagulls. The seagulls would land near boats anchored in the cove across the lake. They probably get some tidbits from people eating in their boats.

Northern water snake

Although it isn’t a bird, I saw northern water snake swimming near the bottom of the lake while standing on the dock. Lynn and Cora were swimming. Lynn hurried Cora to the ladder and they climbed onto the dock. The snake went under the dock and surfaced on the other side. It was the biggest water snake I’ve ever seen. It headed to a shallow area with reeds. Cora was fascinated by the snake and climbed onto her mother’s paddleboard in hopes of getting a better view. Lynn got her off the paddleboard and onto shore. Cora, unlike her mother and grandmother, likes snakes.

Scarlet tanager

My son-in-law, Brian, saw a scarlet tanager in his yard. He went inside his house to look it up. It was a first sighting for him. People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100 or emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com

GARDEN, from page 4

maturity in the fewest number of days. Look for those marked 80 days or less. Freezing peppers is super easy, and there is no blanching necessary. Simply cut your peppers into slices and prefreeze them on a cookie sheet. Once they are frozen you can put them into freezer bags and grab a handful or two as needed. Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



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Baystate Health announces new visitor check-in

SPRINGFIELD – For the continued safety of patients, visitors and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, effective Monday, Aug. 3, all Baystate Health hospitals will be implementing a visitor check-in log as part of its visitation policy.

Visitors to Baystate Medical Center and Baystate Children’s Hospital in Springfield, Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield, and Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, will be asked to provide their full name and phone number to be recorded in the log, as well as the name of the patient they are visiting. Visitors must also provide a photo ID.

In June, Baystate Health resumed hospital visiting hours which are daily from noon to 8 p.m.

Visitors coming to Baystate Medical Center should allow for extra time for our enhanced check-in process, especially during peak visiting hours from 12 to 1 p.m.

One visitor at a time is allowed in the hospital for non-COVID patients at Baystate Medical Center, Baystate Noble Hospital, Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Franklin Medical Center. Baystate Children’s Hospital allows one parent/guardian or one visitor of patients. No visitors are allowed in our emergency departments.

No visitors are allowed for COVID

patients at all hospitals, except:

- Patients under the age of 18 are allowed one parent or guardian.
- OB patients who are in labor are allowed 1 birthing partner.
- Hospice patients and end-of-life patients are allowed 1 person and 1 clergy member per day.
- Patients with disabilities, including physical and cognitive, are allowed 1 companion.

Visitors must travel directly to and from the patient’s room when entering and leaving the hospital and will not be permitted in common areas such as waiting rooms, cafeterias or gift shops.

The visitation process for patients attending outpatient appointments or visiting outpatient practices remains the same, no visitors can accompany patients. Exceptions are as follows:

- One parent/guardian for a patient 18 years old or younger.
- One companion for patients with disabilities, including physical and cognitive.

Masks must be worn correctly at all times at all Baystate Health facilities. Visitors wearing masks with vents are not allowed and will be issued an approved mask from the hospital.

All visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health.

For the latest information on visitor guidelines, visit baystatehealth.org/visitors.

Governor Baker issues new travel order for residents, visitors

BOSTON – Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued a new order mandating all travelers from coronavirus hot spots entering the commonwealth to fill out a Massachusetts travel form and quarantine for 14 days. The order took effect Saturday, Aug. 1.

All travelers entering the commonwealth will be required to comply with a new travel order unless they are coming from a low risk COVID-19 state or are able to produce a negative test result no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival in

Massachusetts. Other exemptions include people passing through the state, those commuting across state lines for work, people traveling to Massachusetts for medical treatment, people complying with military orders, or those traveling to work in federally designated critical infrastructure sectors (essential services).

The travel order and other information is available at www.mass.gov/MATraveler.

Individuals who get a test must remain in quarantine until they receive





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CLUES ACROSS

1. Corrode

5. Jean Paul __, author

11. Hebrew unit of dry measure

12. A type of scientist

16. Greek goddess of discord

17. For Red Sox MVP

18. It checks your speed

19. Made dirty

24. The First State

25. Lodgings

26. Spiritual leader

27. Bradley Int'l Airport code

28. Native American people

29. Sharp pain

30. Touch

31. Slowly disappears

33. Indigenous Russian people

34. Narrative poem

38. Some are bad

39. Small quill feathers

40. Tattles

43. Popular Easter entree

44. Beneficiary

45. Clothed

49. Payroll firm

50. Lower Normandy's largest city

51. Binary compound of halogen

53. The Fighting Irish

54. Skilled, paid worker

56. Eyelashes

58. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet

59. Large, stocky lizard

60. Made poisonous

63. Former US Secretary of State

64. Sticky substances

65. A type of gin

CLUES DOWN

1. To return an echo

2. Displace

3. Japanese religion

4. Predilections

5. Partial

6. Poisonous plant

7. Road open

8. Atomic #81

9. Accomplished American composer

10. Oh, God!

13. Potato state

14. Most melancholic

15. Supportive framework

20. Hollywood's Pacino

21. A title for women

22. Popular Grammys alternative

23. Check

27. Bolivian river

29. South Dakota

30. Wonderful

31. Supervises flying

32. Commercial

33. More (Spanish)

34. Even distribution of weight

35. "Arabian Nights" hero

36. Compact mass of a substance

37. Bachelor of Laws

38. Halfback

40. Some of it is ground

41. They play in the trenches

42. Atomic #18

44. Chinese Prefecture

45. Fabrics

46. Being in a direct line of descent from an ancestor

47. In slow tempo

48. Flood

50. Long-necked bird

51. Secondary school

52. Artificial intelligence

54. Structure by the water

55. Lather

57. What happens there stays there

61. A bone

62. The Great Lakes State

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page ????????

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School opening decisions could affect sports return

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – With a number of school districts already declaring whether or not they will engage in regular in-person learning, remote-only learning, or hybrid situations where students would spend some time in school and some time out of school, the MIAA will need to consider the consequences of those decisions while determining when and how student-athletes will be able to hit the fields.

The MIAA Board of Directors recently voted to move the start of the season to at least Sept. 14. That would likely mean the soonest games could start would be near the end of

September. Football could take longer if it is allowed to be played.

Also to keep in mind for the MIAA is the recent decision by Gov. Charlie Baker to put any further phases or parts of phases of re-opening on hold due to small increases in new cases.

When Phase 3 of the re-opening plan took effect on July 6, it limited the ability for people to play soccer, basketball, football, and lacrosse. While practices could occur, games and other types of contests were not allowed at any level.

This cancelled the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, as well as the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League, and various other leagues that play

in the summer months. Only baseball and softball games have been played during the month.

With Baker putting further parts of Phase 3 on hold and rolling back crowd numbers on outdoor gatherings, it is possible that football and soccer games may not be allowed to play unless an exception is made at the high school level, or numbers of new coronavirus cases significantly improve soon.

But the decisions by schools also could make play of sports difficult. With some schools like Springfield, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow going all remote, it could be difficult for eligibility to appear in games to be determined. Other school dis-

tricts, like Southwick, are giving students and their families the choice of doing a hybrid model or remote only, which means some students will in school a limited number of days per week.

Agawam recently voted to have a hybrid learning model and bring students back to school as much as possible.

Other school districts will be making their decisions this week and next. All schools must be submitting plans to the state for multiple situations sometime in the next week.

School starts are also supposed to be delayed for two weeks for additional COVID-related testing for teachers.

Following the first few decisions being made, the

MIAA did release this brief statement to schools.

“As school Districts decide the format of their school re-opening plans,” the MIAA states. “The MIAA is fielding questions about the impact of those decisions on interscholastic athletics from school constituents, School Committees, Superintendents, school leaders and media outlets. Please be advised the Association has no current policy which negates any athletic participation relative to a District’s school re-opening plans. Members will be notified if there is any future modification to this guidance.”

The MIAA will likely be meeting again sometime this month, though a date has to be determined.

PANDEMIC ELIMINATES AUGUST PLAYOFFS



Last year, PeoplesBank of the Tri-County Baseball League won its seventh straight playoff championship in the American Division. Tri-County cancelled its American Division season, while teams in the National Division played in their own league this summer.

File photos



Spec Pond was not buzzing in the second week of August as the summer basketball league was cancelled when Gov. Baker barred basketball contests from being played.



The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League was another casualty of the governor's ban on “at-risk” sports.



The PVSSL also featured an adult league that was not able to play. All of the summer leagues hope to be back in action next summer.

Volleyball induction cancelled for 2020

HOLYOKE – The Board of Directors of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Hall of Fame Induction Celebration due to safety concerns for the international event that takes place at venues in Holyoke and throughout Western Massachusetts.

“Induction weekend is a celebration of our sport and its greatest legends, and while we are disappointed to cancel this incredibly special event, the Board of Directors’ overriding concern is the health and well-being of those who travel from all over the world to celebrate with us,” said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry.

This will be only the second time since the first induction was held in 1985 that the annual celebration will not be held. There will not be a designated induction Class of 2020. Instead, the IVHF will recognize its next class of inductees in the fall of 2021.

“We looked at every possible option to hold the event in 2020 including hosting a virtual Induction but it was clear that the right decision was to cancel,” stated Mulry. “Most importantly, we strive to honor the inductees in the proper

See INDUCTION, page 8

Locals seek checkered flags this weekend

SEEKONK – When the Tri Track Open Modified Series rolls into Monadnock Speedway this Saturday, August 15, the race will be a battle between some of the Tri Track stars and Monadnock regulars. Monadnock runs a weekly Modified division as part of their NASCAR program, and multiple of the competitors will be jumping up to the Tri Track Series looking to defend their home-turf in the 100-lap feature.

Ben Byrne, who is a three-time winner in the NHSTRA Modified weekly division this year, has shown his strength multiple times in the past with Tri Track. Byrne was a frontrunner in the race last year, and on July 5, he charged to the front of the field, taking the lead on lap 33, and holding the top spot through a caution period on lap 64. Byrne would lose the lead but settle for a third-place finish after Les Hinckley and Craig Lutz got together racing for the lead in the final corner, with Lutz pushing to the win.

Byrne feels like he needs some redemption after showcasing the speed under the hood in the last few Tri Track races at Monadnock and not coming away with the checkered flag.

“We started running just for giggles to see how we would shape up against them,” Byrne, the driver of the No. 6, said. “We led a whole bunch of lap the first time but got tied up in a wreck, in the second one we led a bunch of it and we messed up the pit stop, and this last time we came back to finish third. We usually run the short races weekly... playing with the big boys is good experience for us.”

Brian Robie and Matt Kimball are also two Monadnock regulars who are no stranger to running with the Tri Track Open Modified Series. In July, Matt Kimball was fastest in the only practice session of the day, but struggled in his heat, and didn’t qualify through it. He would finish second in the consi race, advancing to the feature, and would even-

tually finish sixth.

It was a long day for Kimball, but well worth the sixth-place result driving the No. 50. Robie would lead all 15 laps in his heat race, start the feature up towards the front, and finish 12th in one of the most competitive fields Tri Track has ever assembled. Robie also currently leads the track point standings by a large margin over Byrne.

For Byrne, winning with the Tri Track Series would be the top moment in his career.

“We put a lot of homework into the new car we built this year,” Byrne said. “It’s really been paying off. To be running toe to toe with the Tri Track guys with a crate motor and 200 horsepower down, it means a lot to us... I think we will probably have to burn the tires off it for a minute or two (if we win). It would be pretty close to a dream come true.”

Along with the Monadnock regulars, a stout field of Modified competi-

tors is expected Saturday at Monadnock. Lutz and Hinckley could renew their battle for the win, while names like Chase Dowling, Ron Silk, Matt Swanson, Ronnie Williams, Woody Pitkat, Dave Sapienza and more are expected.

Teams will compete in heat racing, consi rounds, and the 100-lap feature as race three of the season takes the green flag.

Fans are encouraged to purchase their tickets ahead of race day on the Monadnock website, with New Hampshire limiting grandstand capacity to just 50% because of COVID-19. Masks are recommended and social distancing will be enforced.

For more information on Monadnock Speedway, visit them at monadnock-speedway.com. For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, visit tritrackmodifieds.com and follow the series on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Amherst College announces golf program changes

AMHERST — Elizabeth Davis has been promoted to head coach of the men’s and women’s golf programs, it was announced today by Director of Athletics Don Faulstick. Jack Arena ‘83, who had been the Mammoths’ lone head coach of two varsity programs, will stay on as an assistant coach of the men’s golf team in 2020-21 and will continue to serve as head coach of Amherst’s men’s hockey team, where he has led the Mammoths for the past 37 seasons.

Davis, the head coach of the women’s golf program since the 2016-17 season, becomes the second female head coach of a men’s program in Amherst College history. She joins men’s and women’s cross country head coach Cassie Funke-Harris, who took over the helm of both of those programs in 2018.

“I’ve been so impressed by Elizabeth’s leadership in her relatively short time at Amherst,” said Faulstick. “She has been a great mentor and teacher since her arrival, and I have no doubt we will continue to have great success in both programs under her guidance. She has all the tools to make this transition an amaz-

ing experience for both teams.”

Named the 2016-17 Women’s Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) East Region Coach of the Year and the 2017 NESCAC Women’s Golf Coach of the Year, Davis has mentored eight All-NESCAC and three All-Region honorees while leading the women’s golf program to seven first place finishes in her first four seasons. Earning a bid to the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2009, and fourth time overall, Davis’ Mammoths finished ninth at the national competition in 2017 before returning in 2018 and placing 14th overall.

A graduate of University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB), Davis was a standout member of the 2013 NCAA Division III National Team Champion squad and was named the team’s most valuable player after leading the program to a nNational runner-up finish in 2014.

Davis takes the reins of the men’s golf program from Arena, an alumnus of the College who began his coaching career at Amherst in 1983-84 as the head coach of the men’s ice hockey program before also being named the head coach

of men’s golf in 1993.

“I have been very fortunate to work with Jack for the past four years,” said Davis. “He is someone who exemplifies the unwavering qualities it takes to be a successful college head coach, and his leadership and dedication to the Amherst College golf program and our student-athletes is unmatched. He is highly respected among both his peers and the students. I look forward to continuing to work with Jack to enhance Amherst College’s overall golf program, and I want to thank him for trusting me with the leadership of it.”

“I’m excited to have Coach Davis take leadership of both of the Amherst golf programs,” said Arena. “I’ve observed many coaches over the years, but few have impressed me as much as Elizabeth. Her enthusiasm, knowledge of the game, competitive spirit and love for Amherst and Amherst golf make her the perfect choice to direct both teams moving forward.”

Arena led Amherst to the NESCAC title in his inaugural season. The 2010 NESCAC Men’s Golf Coach of the Year, Arena steps down having guided the

Mammoths to four NESCAC crowns and two NCAA Division III Championship appearances. He also holds the honor of helping snap Williams College’s streak of 14 consecutive Little Three titles after Amherst clinched the Little Three Championship crown in 2011-12.

“I was fortunate to inherit the men’s team from Tracy Mehr and have always felt a responsibility to continue the program in a way that would meet and further his vision,” Arena continued. “I believe this is the right time and Coach Davis is the right person to continue that legacy. A legacy that makes Amherst, Amherst Athletics and everyone who has been associated with Amherst Golf proud to be a part of. I look forward to staying actively involved with the teams and supporting her in every way possible.”

“Jack’s dedication and success in both programs, quite a rarity, has been stellar,” Faulstick continued. “I’m excited that he’ll remain as a resource and assistant coach with the program. I certainly thank him for his tremendous contributions to the program and our students as the head coach.”

Raised Covid-19 concerns cancel practice, race at Thompson

THOMPSON, Conn. – Due to mounting concerns over the health and economic effects of COVID-19, Econn Motorsports announced today they are not moving forward with the traditional Bud 150 which had been scheduled for August 19th at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. An open practice previously scheduled for August 5th has also been canceled. The recent outbreaks of COVID-19 cases associated

with professional sporting events was chief among the reasons for the decision.

“We had initially thought that the virus would be of minimal concern by now, but the numbers are still very concerning”, said Terry Eames of Econn Motorsports. “We remain committed to keeping oval track racing alive at Thompson and will continue to work with the Hoenig family about the possibility of events later in the year.”

PLAN, from page 1

ly, with an opt-in component that will allow parents/guardians of vulnerable students and for those for whom exclusive remote learning is less conducive to have small in-person learning district-wide. We will be in contact with families of students who may qualify (e.g. students with disabilities, English Learners, disengaged youth, students in the Career and Vocational Technical Education program at HHS-Dean Campus) soon.

We will monitor health metrics throughout the year to help us make decisions about whether and when to bring more students back to school. Today, the Governor’s Office released

metrics that will help local municipalities and school districts plan accordingly, as it relates to the operation of cities, towns, and school districts.

Please note that on Friday of this week, we will release the detailed plan to the entire school community. Our plan will detail our commitment to ensuring that every student in Holyoke receives high-quality teaching and learning this school year and we look forward to working with you to make this a reality.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Sincerely,
Dr. Alberto Vázquez Matos

Baseball clinics to take place in August

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the John Murphy Youth Baseball League will be conducting baseball clinics. To sign up for the clinic, please contact Coach Terry Murphy at tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net.

Clinics will follow all of the board of health requirements regarding masks, spacing and cleaning of equipment. Players with their own bats and helmets or catcher’s gear are encouraged to bring to the clinic. All clinics to take place at Mackenzie Field. Free of charge for Holyoke residents, \$10 for non-residents.

Potential Baseball Clinics Schedule
Wednesday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)
Wednesday, Aug.12, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)
Thursday, Aug. 13, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)
Monday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

(age group 7-10)
Wednesday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 11-13)
Wednesday, Aug. 19, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)
Thursday, Aug. 20, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 7-10)
Wednesday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 14-17)
Wednesday, Aug. 26, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)
Clinics will be run by former Holyoke Community College baseball coach Terry Murphy. He will be assisted by Bob Prattico, former Holyoke Catholic coach, Mike Afflitto, Smith Academy coach, and Mike Prattico, Amherst High School coach. Added to the coaching staff is Dioni Soriano Bello, a former player in Japan and Latin America. They will also be assisted by several former high school players as well. A trainer will also be on hand for each session.

INDUCTION, from page 7

way they are most deserving of. Our next Induction Class should enjoy the same wonderful experience in the Birthplace of Volleyball as previous classes and they will have that opportunity next Fall.”
There is still one major event

on the IVHF calendar for 2020. The Nationwide Charity Ride & Run, a collection of virtual bike and running events along with in-person Motorcycle rides will take place across the U.S. September 12-13, 2020. For more information on the Nationwide Charity Ride & Run please visit VolleyHall.org/NationwideRide.

COALITION, from page 1

The advocacy group, which consists of former executives of the Soldiers' Home, as well as family members of veteran residents at the Home and veterans who died of COVID-19 at the Home, are concerned about recent news that 11 people at the Home have again tested positive for COVID-19.

The Coalition's analysis calls on the state to publicly report details of its infection control plans to confront the current outbreak and how the Soldiers' Home will prevent an expected second wave of the COVID-19.

Coalition research conducted this month revealed that there are federal funds to purchase state-of-the-art disinfection devices, such as Xenex Disinfection Services, which is the first and only UV disinfection technology that has been proven to deactivate COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2).

"We have learned that the state has an opportunity to acquire the Xenex disinfection system, through the CARES Act, which could immediately help prevent COVID-19 from further spreading.

Since the virus has re-emerged at the facility, each day of delay continues to put veterans and staff at the facility at further risk."

Our Coalition researched several systems and found that one in particular, Xenex, is currently being used at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, N.H., a 250-bed, state long-term care facility. The New Hampshire home reports zero COVID-19 cases, and among many practices, to include the use of Clorox 360 to disinfect toilets, has highlighted the success of the Xenex system. The system is used in hospitals, VA medical centers, VA treatment centers, and health care sites of care throughout the nation.

In addition to COVID-19, the system, the most widely deployed form of no-touch germicidal disinfection in the United States, kills other pathogens including C. diff, Ebola, and MRSA.

The Coalition has informed leadership at the Soldiers' Home of the system and the availability of federal funds to help offset the costs of the system and calls on the state to immediately pursue the system or a similar system.

The Coalition's needs assessment

looks at the relative strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to the Soldiers' Home and, in addition to an infection control plan, recommends several additional actions the state needs to take, to include:

1. Immediate steps for an infection control plan to meet expected "Second Wave" and the immediate acquisition of the Xenex UV disinfection system and other best practices in infection control, such as the Clorox 360 System.
2. Eliminating Part-Time positions while increasing staffing levels.
3. Development of a detailed strategic plan with communication strategies for Veterans, family members, the Veteran community, and the Coalition to clarify the fall/winter infection control procedures for COVID-19 to include addressing adequate staffing and PPE supplies.
4. Expedited planning for the construction and renovation of the Soldiers' Home to meet the April 15, 2021 deadline for VA construction grant. The "reimagined Home" design should include accommodations for 250 Veterans with a private room/private bath for every Veteran and inclusion

of the previously approved Adult Day Healthcare Program at the facility.

5. Immediately scheduling outreach and listening sessions with key audiences to include the Coalition to discuss the state's path forward with its plans for improvements and for construction of a new Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.
6. Link annual budget increase to inflation rate, thereby preventing reduction in services to Veterans due to inflation.
7. Consider increase in per diem charge, also linked to inflation.
8. Restore the Board of Trustee's authority to hire, evaluate and terminate the superintendent, thereby allowing superintendent to honestly discuss the actual status and needs of the Home, and advocate for resources.

Since its inception in June, the Coalition has grown to more than 70 members and has received the support of more than 20 municipalities, veteran groups and civic organizations in calling for immediate state action to increase funding at the Soldiers' Home to ensure sufficient staff, equipment and supplies to provide safe care for veterans.

PROGRAM, from page 1

The funds – \$399,676 in the first year – will enhance HCC's existing Community Health Worker training program with the goal of increasing the number of CHW's qualified to work on integrated opioid use disorder teams in area health centers in medically underserved communities.

The grant comes from the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), part of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

"We all know someone who suffers from this epidemic," Neal said during a press event outside the HCC Campus Center. "This disease touches all people from all walks of life. We must continue to work together to combat this critical public health and safety issue, and I am grateful for the good work HCC continues to do in this realm."

HRSA's Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program supports training programs that enhance and expand paraprofessionals knowledge, skills, and expertise. It aims to increase the number of peer support specialists and other behavioral health-related paraprofessionals who work on interprofessional teams to provide services to children whose parents are impacted by opioid use disorders and other substance use disorders, and their family members in guardianship roles.

HCC's partners in the grant project include Behavioral Health Network, Holyoke Health Center and the MassHire Hampden Country Workforce Board.

"Funding to launch this new program could not come at a more critical

time for our community and economy," said HCC president Christina Royal. "COVID-19 has made clear how essential community health workers are in addressing the wide range of physical, behavioral and mental health issues faced by members of our community. Through this program and with our partners, we will not only have the ability to support more families struggling with substance use, but we will also be creating more jobs in a sector central to our region's economic growth."

Community health is an emerging healthcare field and community health workers are typically employed by agencies to focus on underserved populations, conducting home visits and connecting clients with needed services. They do not provide medical care.

Five years ago, HCC became one of the first colleges in Massachusetts to offer a community health worker certificate program, which is part of the college's Foundations of Health program.

The funding from the grant will provide training for an additional 100 individuals (25 students and incumbent workers each academic year for four years) as CHWs in western Massachusetts.

Each participant will receive \$3,000 to help defray the cost of tuition, fees and supplies, and a \$5,000 stipend while they're in Level 1 training.

The grant will also allow for the creation of a registered apprenticeship program with HCC's partners that will be the first of its kind in western Massachusetts.

Students who enter an apprenticeship after they finish training are eligible for an annual stipend of \$7,500.

MORSE, from page 1

Neal, who has been representing Massachusetts since 1989, was once mayor of Springfield.

The two candidates have had various TV ads fueling their rivalry, but Neal's campaign denies having anything to do with the sexual misconduct allegations being made public with just three weeks to the election.

Morse, Sunday night, said he would not leave the race, and released a statement to that effect:

"I announced my candidacy for Congress because I believed our country needed leadership that understood the urgency of this moment. I believed that the voters of the First Congressional District deserved a member of Congress who would put their interests before those of wealthy and influential donors. I believed that the health of our democracy relied on envisioning a new kind of politics – a politics of lifting up and empowering ordinary people.

I still believe these things. If anything, my time as a candidate has only deepened my conviction that people are looking for a politics that is more generous, more open, and more just. I've heard stories from people in every corner of this district that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life.

Our campaign is fueled by the hard work and dedication of my amazing staff and volunteers and the contributions of small grassroots donors. Our campaign is also lifted up by the support of progressive organizations that helped take our efforts to new heights. I remain committed to their missions, but also understand

the toll that recent events are taking on them and their supporters.

Over the weekend, the Daily Collegian published a story that alleged that I abused my power in having consensual sexual encounters with college students, and that I made other college students feel uncomfortable by conversing with them on social media.

I want to be very clear about this. I have never, in my entire life, had a non-consensual sexual encounter with anyone. I have never used my position of power as Mayor and UMass lecturer for romantic or sexual gain, or to take advantage of students. I have never violated UMass policy. Any claim to the contrary is false. As I've acknowledged, I have had consensual relationships with other men, including students enrolled at local universities that I've met using dating apps."

Morse said he welcomes any investigation and says he will be cleared of any wrongdoing.

On Monday, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst released a statement confirming an investigation in Morse's conduct. UMass has also gone on record saying Morse will not be re-hired as an adjunct professor. Morse taught classes in government and political science since 2014.

"The allegations that Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse engaged in inappropriate behavior with UMass Amherst students are serious and deeply concerning," UMass states. "And the university is launching an immediate review of the matter to determine whether the alleged actions during his time as a university lecturer were in violation of university policy or federal Title IX law."

MAYOR, from page 1

for congress, looking to take a seat held by Neal, a representative since 1989.

With three weeks till the election, Morse is facing allegations of improper sexual behavior while he was an adjunct professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst (see related story).

Morse is not dropping out of the race, and has said he welcomes an investigation.

Meanwhile, the Holyoke City Council, which has several members that have often been at odds with Morse, is responding to the allegations.

Ward 5 Councilor Linda Vacon and At-Large Councilor Michael Sullivan have both publicly stated Morse should immediately resign as mayor.

Vacon said a broad investigation should begin to look into his conduct while serving as the mayor of Holyoke as well as chairman of the Holyoke School Committee, a position he has by virtue of being mayor.

Vacon is also calling on the city council to launch its own investigation. She said his alleged sexual conduct while teaching at UMass occurred in years he was mayor of the city.

"Since he has admitted to the conduct while in a position of authority, an abuse of power, I believe he should resign his position as he has lost the public trust," Vacon said.

Following Vacon's request for Morse's resignation, Sullivan pledged to work with member of the city council to begin an investigation into Morse's behavior.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Murphy

said he believes Morse should take a leave of absence.

This would allow city business to be conducted without the distraction of the investigation," Murphy stated.

Murphy is also calling on city employees to report any concerns to the council.

Three other councilors have vocalized opinions on the issue. Both Rebecca Lisi and James Leahy have said they will wait for the results of the UMass investigation while Ward 6 Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos said he will continue to support Morse.

The city council could vote on launching an investigation of its own as soon as its next meeting, which is currently scheduled for early September. No special meetings have been called since the allegations against Morse have been made public.



Mayor Alex Morse speaks at the Aug. 2 Holyoke High School graduation. Morse's behavior is being investigated by UMass.

File photo

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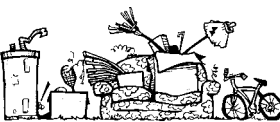
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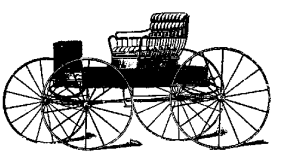
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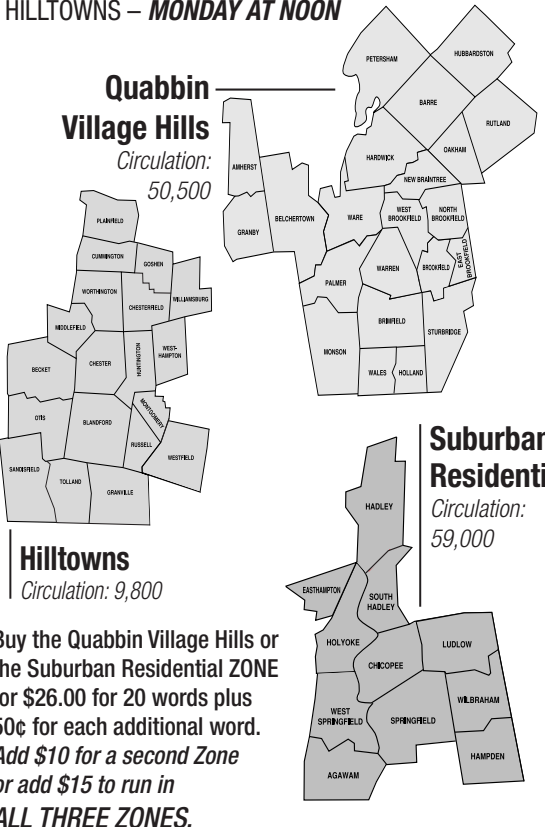
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Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD20P1022EA Estate of: Henry N Favreau, Jr. Date of Death: 09/24/2019 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Thomas Favreau** of Southwick, MA; Petitioner **Lisa Dupont** of Feeding Hills, MA.

Thomas Favreau of Southwick, MA; **Lisa Dupont** of Feeding Hills, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 8/14/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD20P1215EA Estate of: Daniel C. Boyle Date of Death: May 17, 2020 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kevin B. Vann** of Indian Orchard, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Kevin B. Vann of Indian Orchard, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** of on the bond.

The estate is being

administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 8/14/2020

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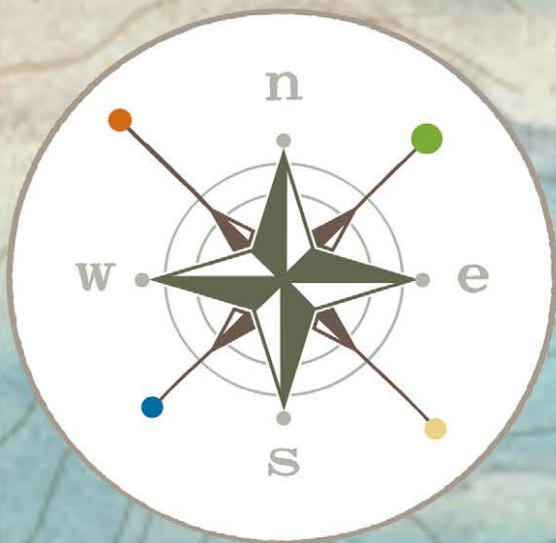
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